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Whitehall, Dec. 21

HIS Majesty has been graciously pleased to cause His Royal Proclamation to be Issued, For the more effectual Suppressing of Popery.

CHARLES R.

HIS Majesty being Sensible of the great Increase of Popery within this Kingdom of late years, by reason of the neglect of putting in Execution those good Laws, which were provided for Suppressing the same, whereby Jesuits and Priests have been emboldened to resort thither from parts beyond the Seas, in Great numbers, and they and others have openly practised to assert the most Pernicious and Damnable Principles of that Religion, and to Persuade and Withdraw divers of His Majesties good Subjects from their Obedience to His Majesty, and to Reconcile them to the Pope and See of Rome, and that notwithstanding the good Laws made to restrain the same, it hath been the general Practice of the Papists, to send their Children and Relations into Foreign Parts to be bred up in Popery, by which Bold and Wicked Practices, and the Impunity that hath followed thereupon, His Majesty apprehends that many of His good Subjects may be ignorant of the said Laws, and therefore hath thought fit by this His Royal Proclamation, by the Advice of His Privy Council, to Publish and make known the Principal, and most penal of the said Laws, as well to Prevent and hinder any of His loving Subjects, from being misled into any the said Offences through Ignorance, as to Guide and Encourage all persons Knowing of any such Offences to a Legal Prosecution of the same, the Substance of the said Laws is as followeth.

By Writing, Printing, Preaching, Teaching, Deed, or Act, or by any Speech to Set forth, Maintain, or Defend, the Authority, or Jurisdiction or Power of the Bishop of Rome, or his See, heretofore Claimed, Used or Usurped within this Realm; or to Attribute any such manner of Jurisdiction, Authority, or Prebeminence, to the said See of Rome, or to any Bishop of the said See, for the Time being, or to Aid, Assist and Comfort any in doing the same; The first Offence is Premunire, the second Offence is made High Treason, by 5 Eliz. Cap. 1.

To Receive, Relieve, Comfort, Aid, or Maintain any Jesuit, Seminary Priest, or other Priest, Deacon, or Religious or Ecclesiastical Person, made by any Authority, Power, or Jurisdiction, Derived, Challenged, or Pretended from the See of Rome, being at Liberty, or out of Hold, knowing him to be such, is Felony without Benefit of Clergy, by 27 Eliz. Cap. 2.

By the Stat. 23 Eliz. 1. It is High Treason to withdraw any of the Kings Subjects to the Romish Religion to the intent to withdraw them from their natural Obedience to the King, and it is High Treason in the Persons so willingly withdrawn, and all Aiders, Abettors, and Concealers thereof, knowingly, are guilty of Misprision of Treason,

To put in practice to Absolve, Persuade or Withdraw any of His Majesties Subjects of this Realm of England from their natural Obedience to His Majesty, or to Reconcile them to the Pope or See of Rome, or to move them to promise Obedience to any pretended Authority to the See of Rome, or to any other Prince, State or Potentate, is High Treason by the Statute 3 Jac. Cap. 4. whether done upon the Seas or beyond the Seas, or in any other Place within His Majesties Dominions.

To be willingly Absolved or Withdrawn in manner aforesaid, or to be willingly reconciled, or to promise Obedience to any such pretended Authority, Prince, State or Potentate, or to Procure, Counsel, Aid or Maintain such Offenders, knowing the same, is likewise made High Treason by the same Statute.

For any Person under the Obedience of the King, to pass or go, or to convey or send, or cause to be sent or conveyed any Child or other person out of any of the Kings Dominions, into any the Parts beyond the Seas, out of the Kings Obedience, to the intent and purpose, to enter into or be resident or trained up in any Priory, Abby, Nunnery, Popish University, Colledge, or School or House of Jesuits, Priests, or in any private Popish Family, and to be there by any Jesuit, Seminary Priest, Fryer, Monk or other Popish Person, instructed, persuaded or frangibned in the Popish Religion, in any sort to profess the same;

Or to Convey or send, or to cause to be conveyed or sent by the hands or means of any person whatsoever, any Sum or Sums of Money, or other thing towards the maintenance of any Child or other person gone or sent, or to go or be sent and trained and instructed, as aforesaid, or under the Name or colour of any Charity, Benevolence, or Alms, towards the Relief of any Priory, Abby, Nunnery, Colledge, School, or any Religious House whatsoever.

All persons offending, being convicted, are disabled to use any Action, Bill, Plaint, or Information in course of Law, or to prosecute any Suit in any Court of Equity, or to be Committee of any Ward, or Executor or Administrator to any person, or capable of any Legacy or Deed of Gift, and forfeit all Goods and Chattels, and all Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Rents, Annuities, Offices and Estates of Freehold for and during their natural lives, by the Stat. 3 Car. Cap. 2.

For the more precise knowledge of which Laws, and all other Laws made for Suppressing the Growth of Popery, in case His Majesties loving Subjects cannot conveniently have the printed Statutes, or cannot well interpret the same, they are to resort to any of His Majesties Judges, Justices of Peace, or other Magistrates, who are hereby required and commanded upon all occasions, to guide and direct them therein, it being His Majesties Resolution, that all the said Laws shall be strictly put in execution.

And His Majesty doth hereby further Charge and Command all and every His loving Subjects, That in case any person shall by any Discourse or Disputation, offer to main-